

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings or versions thereof:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) A method for immunization and treatment of a human against atherosclerosis or an atherosclerotic related disease, the method comprising the step of administering to the human a pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody preparation with specificity to a phosphorylcholine conjugate, wherein said preparation is a preparation of monoclonal antibodies with specificity for a phosphorylcholine conjugate or a subfraction of human immunoglobulin selected for the ability to bind to a phosphorylcholine conjugate.
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the composition is administered by injection.
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the phosphorylcholine [[is]] conjugate comprises phosphorylcholine linked to a carrier via a spacer.
5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the phosphorylcholine conjugate [[is]]comprises phosphorylcholine linked to a protein carrier, optionally via a spacer.
6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein the protein carrier is KLH (keyhole limpet hemocyanin) or human serum albumin (HSA).
7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the phosphorylcholine conjugate comprises phosphorylcholine linked to a latex bead, optionally via a spacer.
8. (Currently amended) A method of prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of a human being suffering from atherosclerosis or facing the risk of developing

ischemic cardiovascular disease, whereby a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody preparation with specificity to a phosphorylcholine conjugate is administered, wherein said preparation is a preparation of monoclonal antibodies with specificity for a phosphorylcholine conjugate or a subfraction of human immunoglobulin selected for the ability to bind to a phosphorylcholine conjugate.

9. (Previously presented) A method for assessing a human patient's risk of developing or progression of cardiovascular disease comprising assessing said patient's levels of antibodies reactive with the phosphorylcholine conjugate, wherein low levels of antibody reactive with the phosphorylcholine conjugate are predictive of the occurrence of cardiovascular disease in a healthy human patient.
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the cardiovascular disease is ischemic cardiovascular disease.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the cardiovascular disease is atherosclerosis.
12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the patient's levels of IgM antibodies reactive with the phosphorylcholine conjugate are assessed.
13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the patient's levels of IgG antibodies reactive with the phosphorylcholine conjugate are assessed.
14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein phosphorylcholine is linked to a carrier via a spacer.
15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the phosphorylcholine conjugate comprises-phosphorylcholine linked to a protein carrier, optionally via a spacer.
16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the protein is KLH (keyhole limpet hemocyanin) or human serum albumin (HSA).

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the phosphorylcholine conjugate comprises-phosphorylcholine linked to a latex bead, optionally via a spacer.
18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the assay is an immunoassay.
19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said antibody preparation is a monoclonal antibody preparation.
20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said antibody preparation is a monoclonal antibody preparation.
21. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the human that is immunized and treated is a human patient that has been determined to be at risk of developing or progression of cardiovascular disease by a method comprising assessing the human patient's level of antibodies reactive with a phosphorylcholine conjugate, wherein the level of antibodies reactive with a phosphorylcholine conjugate correlates negatively with the risk of developing or progression of cardiovascular disease in a healthy human patient.
22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the cardiovascular disease is atherosclerosis.
23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the human patient has been determined to be at risk of developing or progression of cardiovascular disease by a method comprising assessing the human patient's level of IgM antibodies reactive with a phosphorylcholine conjugate.
24. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the human patient has been determined to be at risk of developing or progression of cardiovascular disease by a method comprising assessing the human patient's level of IgG antibodies reactive with a phosphorylcholine conjugate.